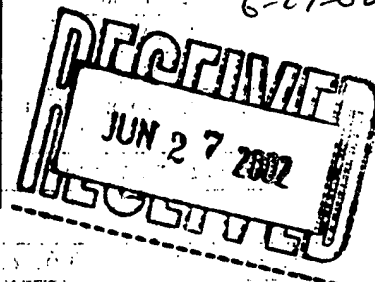




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below:

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Patel, Arvind et al.

Group Art Unit: 1712

Serial No.: 10 / 062,854

Examiner:

Filed: January 31, 2002

Atty. Dkt. No.: 11836.0720.NPUS00
(MIDR:720)

For: OIL BASED WELL FLUIDS WITH HIGH
SOLIDS CONTENT

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of a first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits, and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 01-2508/11836.0720.NPUS00.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert P. Auerbach
Reg. No. 46,525
Agent for Assignee
M-I LLC

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Date: 17 May 2002